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AN

A C C O U N T

OF

P U E R P E R A L

F E V E R S,

As they appear in DERBYSHIRE, and
some of the Counties adjacent.

By WILLIAM BUTTER, M. D.
Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in
EDINBURGH.

Occursum vitio dicunt eum, qui originem non ig
CELSUS.

L O N D O N :

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE first four chapters and six cases of the following work were prepared for the publick view above a twelvemonth ago: and they passed through the hands of a physician in London during the months of july and august. Some time in september that gentleman delivered my papers, at my desire, to a bookseller, but not the present publisher: and they have remained in the press ever since. Two more cases having occurred in the mean time, I have likewise inserted them, as so many additional illustrations of my subject.

It is but just, at this distance of time, once more to remark, that hemlock continues to be used for the kinkcough, and with so much success, that it may truly be considered as one of the safest, and most certain, cures in physick.

Derby, April 15,
1775.

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INTRO.

INTRODUCTION.

Of fevers in general.

IT hath been long my opinion that Fever, properly so called, originates in the first passages—that it constitutes but one genus—that this genus comprehends only three species, the ephemeral, the remittent, and the intermittent fevers—and that all other fevers are varieties of these. As this doctrine of fever is supported by numerous observations, and as it hath been of the greatest use to me in practice, it must be owned that I am strongly impressed with the belief that it is founded in nature. The following account of puerperal fevers is a specimen of my way of thinking on this subject. —At any rate, I hope this small work is
of

of importance enough to merit publication; since, amongst other things, it points out the true nature of a very alarming disease, and even successful means, as well for the preventing, as for the curing, of it.

A N

A C C O U N T

OF THE

P U E R P E R A L

REMITTENT FEVER.

C H A P T E R I.

The Description, and Prognosticks, of the
PUERPERAL REMITTENT FEVER.

ON the second or third day after delivery, whether of a ripe or unripe child, and sometimes a few days before such delivery, the woman, when exposed to febrile causes, is seized with a cold fit, which is succeeded by head-ach, giddiness, noise and throbbing of her ears, oppressed breathing, sickness, faintness, great dejectedness, pain and fore-ness of the belly, heat, thirst, and other
B feverish

feverish symptoms : at this time the body is generally costive.

The pain in the head is chiefly over the eyebrows ; and it is commonly exasperated by attempting to rise from the pillow.

Giddiness is not a constant symptom : nor is the throbbing noise of the ears observable in every case.

Though delirium is a rare symptom, yet, it sometimes occurs even in cases which end favourably.

The woman is much harassed with watchfulness : and her sleeps, or rather slumbers, are broken and disturbed.

The face, though sometimes flushed, is generally pale, and devoid of that look which is observable in feverish disorders.

The tongue is moist, and seldom very white.

The breathing is generally affected with a straitness, and sometimes with what the patient calls a weakness ; which symptom is in proportion to the fulness or pains of the belly. This complaint, though very troublesome to the patient, is not very obvious to the bystander.

Sickness is a common symptom : and the patient often hawks up great quantities of tough phlegm, and sometimes vomits phlegm and bilious stuff.

Great faintness, dejection, and despair of recovery, are the constant attendants of this fever.

The belly is often large, though soft ; sometimes it is large with a degree of general, or partial, hardness ; and frequently, as to its external appearance, it is quite natural.

The pains of the belly, and soreness of it to the touch, are sometimes from the navel downwards : but more frequently they extend all over the belly. The patient calls these pains, aching, sometimes griping, and sometimes bearing down pains.

Wind is always a troublesome symptom ; it often makes a roaring noise in the bowels ; and, when discharged either upwards or downwards, relieves both the breathing and the abdominal pains.

The woman frequently complains of an uneasy heat in her stomach and bowels, which extends even to her throat.

The milk generally leaves the breasts.

The lochia sometimes stop, on, or before, the commencement of the fever: but most commonly, that discharge continues its usual course.

The urine, in some cases, is deeply saturated; but, in more, it is slightly tinged.

The urine, when deeply saturated, generally breaks either not at all, or but slowly; and sometimes retains in a great measure its colour, even after deposing a copious sediment with a pink surface.

The urine, when slightly tinged, often becomes turbid, nearly as soon as made; and, in less than half an hour, drops a crude grey sediment. This kind of urine, as often as it occurs, is a certain criterion that the fever is of a putrid nature.

The urine is sometimes scarce: for the most part it is sufficiently copious.

The urine, by its quantity, sometimes increases the faintness; oftener relieves all the symptoms; but is never critical.

The stools are dark, slimy, clotty, very fetid, and often froth and ferment like barm: they always give great relief to the patient; and are the only salutary crisis of the puerperal fever.

Worms,

Worms, either alive or dead, frequently come away in the stools.

The external heat of the belly and groins is often very great; while, at the same time, the rest of the body is little warmer than natural.

The skin is generally moist, and soft.

There is a very great lassitude, and debility; in consequence of which the woman, for the most part, prefers a supine posture.

The pulse is low, small, sometimes sharp, and generally beats about a hundred and thirty pulsations, or more, in the minute during an exacerbation.

There is, in some cases, an offensive smell about the patient; unless the room be kept cool, the linen often changed, and sometimes the whole bedding.

Sometimes the breasts are swelled, hard, and very painful; and sometimes the womb is affected with inflammation: but both cases are accidental, and not necessarily connected with this fever.

There is an irregular feverish exacerbation once or twice a day, and sometimes oftener. This paroxysm is preceded by a violent rigour, much oftener by a chil-

ness without tremour, and sometimes the hot fit comes on without any sense of coldness.

These exacerbations are usually terminated by sweats, which are sometimes partial, sometimes general, but never critical; and tend more to debilitate than relieve the patient.

All the symptoms are increased during the feverish exacerbations.

The length of this fever is various: sometimes it terminates in a week or ten days; sometimes it lasts three, four, or five, weeks; and, in some rare cases, much longer.

THE PROGNOSTICKS.

A belly naturally large, and pendulous, is always an unfavourable circumstance in the puerperal fever.

On the contrary, a small belly contributes greatly towards a speedy and successful issue of this disease.

If the patient hath lived sparingly, and hath had regular stools during pregnancy, those circumstances tend to render the puerperal

puerperal fever mild and of short duration.

If, on the contrary, the woman hath lived luxuriously, and hath also been coſt-ive during that period, we may juſtly expect that the fever will at leaſt have a longer courſe.

A ſickly ſeaſon adds both to the danger and frequency of the puerperal fever.

If the feveriſh exacerbations are mild, and preceded by little or no coldneſs, if the belly is ſoft and not large, and if the urine is pale and ſoon drops a ſediment*, there is reaſon to believe that the diſeaſe will not only end ſoon but favourably.

If, on the other hand, the rigours are violent and return often, if the exacerbations run high, if the belly is large and hard, and if the urine continues deep coloured even after dropping its ſediment, there is room

* Though I have ſhown that urine which quickly drops a crude grey ſediment indicates putreſcence, yet, I make no uſe of this ſign in forming a dangerous prognotiſtick ; having always found putrid fevers, if not complicated, as curable as any other fevers whatever.

to fear that the recovery will at least be flow.

If the stools are daily acquiring a more natural appearance, while at the same time the urine grows pale in the same proportion and its sediment whiter, there is great reason to expect a favourable and speedy termination of the disease. Under such circumstances, urine even as limpid as spring water is a very good symptom.

While the stools continue foul, and the urine deeply saturated, even after depositing its sediment, the prospect of a recovery is not only distant, but doubtful.

If the urine continues high-coloured, notwithstanding that the stools become more and more natural, the impending danger is great.

Sweats however general, and in what degree soever, without other concurring circumstances, cannot be regarded as a symptom of recovery.

If this fever is attended with a looseness, it will, other circumstances being equal, terminate sooner than when the stools are more sparing.

I add

I add no more on this head ; because I profess to write from experience, without copying in the least from other authors. I shall, in the following chapter, inquire into the causes and nature of this noted fever. Perhaps it will be found, that the true reason of the great diversity of opinion on this subject is, that the case is too obvious, and at the same time apparently too simple, to be capable of producing such dreadful consequences.

C H A P. II.

Of the Causes and Nature of the PUERPERAL REMITTENT FEVER.

PREGNANCY seems to add greatly to the natural sensibility of the female constitution. At this time, women are uncommonly affected with certain odours, have great dislikes to particular articles of diet, are distressed with groundless fears, and are often subject to a train of nervous symptoms, which at other times they are strangers to: all which circumstances can, in no respect, be accounted for so easily, as from morbid sensibility. And this very weak and mobile state of the nervous system is much increased in childbed, on account of the considerable loss of blood and other humours.

During gestation, the appetite for the most part is keen, while at the same time every appearance gives proofs of a bad digestion. This indigestion is increased by improper food, which the woman too

often hankers after, and by the indolence inseparable from her condition. Beside, the course of the bowels being interrupted, costiveness generally prevails. On all these accounts, the first passages are loaded with impurities, which, the longer they stagnate, become of so much the more acrid and septick a nature.

Having therefore found great weakness and irritability, the common predisposing causes of all fevers, as also a morbid accumulation in the first passages, which is a very common exciting cause of such disorders; I say, having found all these causes eminently to concur in the puerperal state, we can readily account for the danger attending childbed, and why women are so apt, at this time, to have fevers, which too often prove fatal. In most cases, however, the balance between these causes is so even, that, if the woman is managed with proper caution, she will notwithstanding escape all feverish ailment, and have a good recovery. But if, from the least error in the nonnaturals, one or all of these causes are aggravated, a fever will inevitably be the consequence.

It

It must however be allowed that it sometimes happens, that no precaution used upon delivery can prevent this fever. This chiefly is the case, when the intestinal accumulation, from a peculiar state of the air, is become so highly putrid, as to be able of itself to kindle up the disorder.

Fever is so far from being unnatural to the human constitution, that it attends us, and for the best purposes, both in sickness and in health. Digestion is always carried on by a degree of fever. When the body is in health, this is not otherwise perceptible than by a slight chill, and an inconsiderable quickness of the pulse. But, in a morbid state, even this dietetick fever becomes a disease; and not only aggravates every feverish symptom, but will of itself often bring on a considerable fever. Hence it is, that no precepts, in the records of physick, have been longer or better established than these; That patients should be fed with the weakest and most fluid aliment, during feverish exacerbations; and that patients, greatly reduced by any disease, must be nourished by the lightest and mildest food.

When

Whenever therefore the stomach of a woman in childbed is oppressed by improper food, the dietetick fever is greatly exasperated, the stomach and intestines are spasmodically affected, and the whole body is drawn into the same affection from sympathy. The fever thus produced increases the acrimony of the intestinal accumulation, and thereby generates, as it were, a fever to support itself.

This only accounts why improper food should bring on a fever: but every other error in the nonnaturals will have the same effect, at least ultimately. But, whatever be the exciting cause, this fever will always begin at the first passages; these being chiefly aggrieved, as being the most irritable part, and as being the most likely, from extensive nervous communication, to affect the whole system.

From what hath been said I conclude, that the proximate cause of the puerperal fever is a spasmodick affection of the first passages, together with a morbid accumulation there: and, upon this supposition, all the phænomena are easily to be explained.

Headach

Headach, giddiness, tingling of the ears, and even delirium, often arise from an affection of the first passages : and this is always the case in the pure puerperal fever.

The difficulty of breathing is owing, in this fever, to the same cause.

Chilness, dejection, faintness, and sickness, are symptoms peculiar to the first passages ; and are, in the present case, commonly in proportion to the quantity, or quality, of the intestinal accumulation.

Uncommon heat of the belly, either externally or internally, is easily understood from this idea of fever.

As the lochia in general observe their natural course, the womb is not necessarily affected in this fever : but, if the woman hath bearing down pains, we are led to suspect something extraneous in that bowel ; as clots of blood, or some relicks of the afterbirth.

When the urine becomes turbid almost as soon as made, and in less than half an hour depofes all its colouring matter, it is a pure intestinal symptom.

The

The urine, however high-coloured, if it is not diaphanous, and provided that it deposes the whole of its contents, is an intestinal symptom.

But high-coloured muddy urine, with partial or no separation, indicates, besides intestinal accumulations, an immediate affection of some of the viscera.

From what hath been said, we see why a crisis can never be expected by sweat or urine : and when these excretions accompany, in any remarkable degree, a favourable termination of this fever, they can only be considered as the effects, not the causes of recovery.

This fever will be uncertain, as to its duration or event, according to the quantity or quality of the morbid cause.

If there is but little accumulation in the intestines, the fever, other circumstances being equal, will be milder, and will terminate sooner, than when there is a great deal.

If the disease is attended with a looseness, it will, other circumstances being equal, terminate sooner than when the stools are more sparing.

When

When the belly is large and hard, as there must be a great accumulation, the cure will at least be tedious.

When the belly is in general soft but with partial hardneſſes, there are probably very hard viſcid accumulations, which muſt indicate a ſlow recovery.

If the external marks of inteſtinal congeſtion be attended with ſevere febrile exacerbations, and a high-coloured urine with flow or partial ſeparation, we muſt conclude that the fever is not ſimple; but complicated with other viſceral affections.

When a peculiar ſtate of the air, a neglect of cleanlineſs, or other cauſes, conſpire to promote a great degree of putrefaction in the bowels, the diſeaſe will be very dangerous, and ſoon end fatally; as the whole habit muſt be tainted, and ſome parts abſolutely corrupted, by the inteſtinal putrid fomes, long before it can be carried off by any degree of purging conſiſtent with the ſtrength of the patient: for ſuch are the convolutions and length of the inteſtinal tube, and ſuch the clotted and viſcid nature of its contents, that conſiderable accumulations cannot
generally

generally be carried off in less than three or four weeks, and sometimes not so soon.

When there is an offensive smell about the patient, we have reason to suspect, that there is a great tendency to putrefaction in the humours: but, we are certain that this is the case, when the urine drops a crude grey sediment. However, in many cases of this fever, there are no symptoms of putrefaction. As it is a remittent fever, it will be allowed, of course, to approach very nearly to the nature of an intermittent. I, therefore, consider this as a strong argument in proof of what I have advanced in another work, that all intermittent disorders have their seat in the intestines. And as this fever, through continuance, but more readily from other causes, becomes highly putrid, the notion of a putrid disease being produced in the guts is thereby illustrated and enforced. Indeed, were this a proper place for such a disquisition, I could advance many arguments to prove, that all fevers originate in the stomach and guts; or, in other words, that fever is nothing but an as-

semblage of symptoms depending either immediately or mediately on the stomach and guts.

This Puerperal Fever is so far from being of a peculiar nature, that it is exactly analogous to the worm fever so fatal to children. The pains of the head and belly are not only common to these two disorders, but, if I mistake not, to some others also of the febrile kind.

Finally, after what hath been said, all inflammatory symptoms must be considered as a complication, and by no means as essentially constituting any part, either of the cause or nature, of the Puerperal remittent Fever.

C H A P. III.

Of the Cure of the PUERPERAL REMITTENT FEVER.

IT hath been too commonly the practice to lay down methods of cure with great parade, mustering up as many indications as possible. For my part, I think no cure can recommend itself so much as by its simplicity: and I could wish to see the time come, when the indication should oftener lie only in the remedy. Considering that this is the natural method, and that it hath been adopted by the Chinese for ages, it might seem wonderful that attempts of this kind should not be received with more general approbation, did we not know that this hath always been the fate, at least for a time, of even the most interesting innovations.

This simple, or specifick, method is of all others the most perfect; and the only natural one: for it acts immediately on the whole proximate cause; by which means the disease is not only soon eradicated, but

every symptom is daily mitigating during the whole progress of the cure. This method of treating a disease may be compared to the pulling of a house down by undermining the foundation on which it stands; when, of course, the whole pile at once falls to the ground.

There is a secondary, or less perfect, method of cure; upon which practitioners chiefly depend: and indeed they employ it successfully against many diseases, though we are still at a loss for it in many. It may however be discovered in almost all diseases: and a physician ought never to be satisfied at least without it; as he may be certain that he is otherwise in the dark, and cannot practice either with credit to himself or advantage to his patient. I have, in my treatise on the kinkcough, given a *true* specimen of the specifick, or most perfect method of cure *. I wish I could afford

* Since the above publication, I have experienced the efficacy of hemlock, as a cure for the kinkcough, in several more instances; and have never yet met with a single one either of its failure or bad effects. I now double the doses mentioned in the
sixth

afford another example in the Puerperal Fever. However, it is hoped that, the cure here described for this disease will properly illustrate, or exemplify, the secondary or next perfect method. As the one acts upon the whole proximate cause, so the other affects only some particular part or parts of it; which indeed, in the end, destroys the whole; as a proximate cause cannot subsist independent on any of its component parts. This method may be compared to the usual manner of demolishing a building, by pulling asunder its several walls, roofs, and partitions, in succession: the end is commonly answered, but it requires more time, the effect is every way less splendid, and too often the patient enjoys but imperfect health, even after the disease is said to be gone.

Now, as this less perfect method of cure acts only partially on the proximate cause, many symptoms of the disorder will continue very troublesome during a great part of the curative treatment: for this

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reason

sixth chapter of the treatise: but a particular account of my improvements and success shall be given in the second edition of it.

reason such a method can have no fewer than two indications, the principal or leading one, without which no cure can be effected, and a second, which tends more to relieve uneasy symptoms than to expedite a cure, though it must be allowed to have some share even in this. But to come to the cure of the Puerperal Fever.

There are only two indications. The first or primary one is to promote two, three, or four stools daily, in a manner suited to the strength of the patient, till such time as they put on a natural appearance. This indication is best answered by a bolus, consisting of ten grains of rhubarb, and as much cordial confection, given every night, adding, or diminishing, a few grains according to the effect. When the bolus fails, at any time, of its desired effect, it can immediately be assisted by a clyster of a pint of warm water impregnated with a large spoonful of common salt.

The second indication is to relieve all uneasy symptoms.

For the heat, thirst, and scarcity of urine, the following julep will be found very useful.

Take

Take of mint water, five ounces ; camphorated julep, two ounces ; fyrup of orange-peel, an ounce ; pure nitre, forty grains : mix them.

Of this the patient is to take a fourth part every six hours : and it is to be repeated daily.

With the same views the patient must drink plentifully of thin cooling liquors, as barley water, and gruel : and she should absolutely be confined to these, and small broth, by turns, for all her food during the course of the fever ; taking this kind of nourishment often, and particularly at those times when she happens to be low.

In case of great lowness, and when the food does not answer the purpose of a cordial, a large spoonful of the following mixture may be given now and then with advantage.

Take of mint water, seven ounces ; fyrup of orange-peel, one ounce ; volatile salt of hartshorn, thirty-two grains : mix them.

If this mixture prove too heating, it may be used without the salt.

Both the julep and mixture, beside answering the purposes assigned to them, often dispel wind ; and so relieve not only the breath, but the pains of the head and belly.

If the headach continue obstinate notwithstanding the above means, a blister applied between the shoulders, or to the arm, will always give relief ; and commonly, at the same time, procures refreshing sleep.

When the patient is troubled with vomiting, or retching, which is a fruitless effort to vomit, she should drink chamomile tea plentifully. If, in that manner, the stomach seem not to be cleansed, eight or ten grains of ipecacuanha must be given. It is never necessary to give a vomit, in this fever, till a natural retching, or vomiting, come on.

When the belly is large, and hard, or much affected with pain, the part should be fomented with flannels, wrung out of the common fomentation, for an hour together, at the distance of every six, eight, or twelve, hours. The warmth of the cloths should be such as to be quite agreeable

able to the patient. After each time of fomenting, the belly should be anointed with camphorated oil. This method not only relieves the symptoms mentioned, but, by taking off strictures in the bowels, assists the laxative in carrying off the accumulation ; and indeed, for that reason, often brings on a looseness. When the stools, in that case, or from the bolus itself, or from any other cause, are too frequent, they must be moderated, but not stopped, by giving a spoonful of the following opiate after every loose stool.

Take of spring water, four ounces ; proof spirit, syrup of orange-peel, each half an ounce ; laudanum, twenty drops : mix them.

An opiate, thus given, not only moderates the stools, but hath, besides, an excellent effect in procuring rest, which is always very desirable to a weak patient ; and particularly in this fever, where watchfulness and dejection of spirits are such harassing symptoms. Sometimes I even promote a stool or two extraordinary, for the sake of giving an opiate in this manner.

When

When a pain continues fixt, and violent in the belly, although the means already recommended have been used, a blister applied to the part will have the desired effect.

Venesection is never to be used in this fever, except it be complicated with inflammatory symptoms : and there is a good rule, in such cases, for that evacuation. If the pain be inconsiderable but during the exacerbations, you should draw a little blood when it is at the worst. Three ounces will give instant relief : and you may repeat the operation, in the same manner, every exacerbation till the pain is gone ; which will be, after two or three bleedings at the most. By this method you will remove the inflammation, and save the strength which is to carry the patient through the fever. It must however be remembered, that the inflamed part is to be fomented two or three times a day ; and poultices of bread and milk with oil are to be applied during the intervals. I have seen some instances of this kind where the breasts were the parts inflamed.

But, when the pain and other symptoms of inflammation are constant and violent,

violent, the lancet must be more freely used. I once met with a complication of this kind, where the womb was the part inflamed. I let blood freely once and again. Fomentations and poultices were constantly applied in succession to the region of the womb. Purgings were used more liberally than if the fever had been simple. And large clysters of warm water were thrown up, twice or thrice a day, to be retained in the intervals. By these means the woman had a very good recovery: and any such complication, especially if taken in time, will, I apprehend, yield to the same method even at the expence of less blood.

In all cases with inflammation, the general treatment for the Puerperal Fever must be carried on at the same time.

Rest, quietness, stillness, coolness, and an obscure light are necessary for this patient. Her linen should often, and the bedding sometimes be changed. She may be laid in blankets upon a squab every day till her bed is made: but she should scarce ever attempt to sit up in the course of this fever.

After the stools are come to their natural state, and all feverish symptoms are
I
gone,

gone, so that the woman complains of nothing but lowness and weakness, she may have her clothes on, and lie upon the bed with a quilt or single blanket drawn over her. At this time, she may begin to mend her diet with a bit of bread-pudding at mid-day. In a day or two, she may venture on a little chicken, always remembering to make the best part of her meal of small broth, and rather to eat often than much at a time, and never meat oftener than once a day. As the woman gets strength, she will gradually approach nearer and nearer to her natural diet; till at last she come to go abroad, and may then live in her usual manner.

In this convalescent state little medicine is wanted, beside as much rhubarb, in the manner prescribed, as will give a stool or two extraordinary twice or thrice a week. In some particular cases, two tea spoonfuls of any simple tincture of the Peruvian bark, taken every forenoon and afternoon in a cup of chamomile tea, will hasten the patient's recovery to her usual health and strength.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Of the Method of preventing the PUERPERAL REMITTENT FEVER.

THE cure described in the preceding chapter hath never yet failed, where the disease was taken in time : for it is proper to observe, that this was generally employed in a simple state of the disease ; and that there are many instances of the Puerperal Fever, in which, as every other method hitherto attempted has failed, so *perhaps* this also would be found ineffectual. There is no absolute security therefore but in prevention.

In order to prevent the Puerperal Fever, we must obviate all known causes : and, from what hath been hitherto said, I hope this will be found no difficult task.

The pregnant woman ought to live on a spare cool diet, and to eat meat only at dinner.

Water, wine and water, or good small beer is the best drink.

She should use moderate exercise in the free air.

She

She should go to bed at an early hour.

She should never have a fire in her bedchamber : and every part of her habitation should be temperate and airy.

She should be at great pains to subdue all inordinate passions ; and to keep her mind, as much as possible, happy and serene.

She should have a stool every day by means of a laxative, if she be not naturally regular in that respect. Eight or ten grains of the aloetick pills of the Edinburgh Dispensatory will, in general, answer this purpose well.

This is all that seems requisite, by way of prevention, during pregnancy.

As soon as the woman is delivered, she should be kept still and quiet, as though she were in a fever ; and supported, for the first two or three days, with only barley-water and gruel ; and then small broth may be added, by turns with these, for all her food.

The room should be kept cool, by regulating the fire according to the season of the year ; and by admitting fresh air cautiously by a door or window from time to time.

The

The stools and urine, as soon as made, should always be carried out of the room.

All the linen about the woman should be shifted, at least every other day.

A clyster of half a spoonful of common salt dissolved in a pint of warm water and oil, each equal parts, should be given the day after delivery. The bolus, so often mentioned, should be given on the third night from delivery; and repeated, every second night, with a view to cleanse the guts.

In a week or ten days, all danger will be over.

I know from experience that this method will have the desired effect in preventing the Puerperal Fever, that would otherwise be of a mild nature: but, when a fever of a very malignant tendency is to be apprehended, some further precaution is necessary.

In such a case, beside a due observance of the rules already laid down, the woman ought not to run the risk of delivery in any place where the Puerperal Fever is either frequent or fatal. The mortality of this fever in London cannot possibly be ascribed

ascribed to any other cause than a peculiar state of the air ; for no part of the world is supplied with abler or more experienced physicians.

People of fashion therefore who would wish to ly-in in London, may fulfil their purpose with equal convenience in some healthful situation within a few miles of that city : they will then be as safe as in any other country place ; and, beside, will have all the advantages of superiour help. I must however observe, that pregnant women ought not to think it enough that they retire to the country just at the time of delivery : the last month or two of pregnancy spent in the country would be an excellent preparation for passing safely and easily through the puerperal state.

I hope a proper attention to what hath been advanced in this short chapter will contribute greatly towards preventing a disorder, which, in no state, is absolutely free from danger.

C H A P. V.

CASES of the PUERPERAL REMITTENT
FEVER.

THE preceding observations were made entirely within the circle of my own practice: and I have been cautious of admitting any theory that does not evidently arise out of the facts which are related. From a desire of imparting firmness and authenticity to the whole, I shall now set down a few of the cases which gave origin to these observations: and, that the cases may the more effectually answer the purpose, my narration shall be full and particular. From a careful perusal of these cases, the competent reader will likewise see, why some remedies, though much in use, are omitted in the general cure for the Puerperal Fever. I never saw any die of this disease; and consequently can give no dissections: nor do I think this any defect in the present work; since the Puerperal Fever is one of those disorders, that seldom or never prove fatal till they have degenerated into a more complicated malady.

C A S E I.

TUESDAY, July 2, 1765. Mrs. A. B. aged twenty-six years, was brought to bed, some weeks before the time, this day was sevennight. Every thing went on as well as could be wished till the evening of the third day; when, having catched cold, or exerted her spirits too much, she was seized with a chilness, succeeded by heat, thirst, sickness, pain of the left side, affecting her breathing, and a quick pulse. As it was thought that this disorder might be owing to her milk, her breasts, though she had no complaint in them, were carefully drawn, and rubbed with oil. Next day, she had a stool by means of a clyster. On Sunday at noon, she got ten grains of rhubarb; which began to operate in the evening: and, since that time, she has had many stools; the last of which was at seven this morning. The stools are copious, slimy, lumpy, of various colours, and very offensive. After the looseness began, she was seized with violent pain in her back, which continued till this morning; when it has shifted into her belly, and affects it all over with
great

great violence, and a sense of bearing down. Breaking wind relieves the pain. There is often a rumbling noise in her belly. Yesterday morning, upon the lochia ceasing, she began to hawk up great quantities of tough phlegm; and continued to do so all day. She has had little or no sleep since the looseness began. Her breathing is still affected. She is thirsty; and often sick at stomach. Her pulse is quick, and not low. She is of a weakly habit; and has been generally unhealthy all her life. Her spirits are naturally unequal, being either high or low. She was often ill during pregnancy, especially of the pain in her left side, attended with feverish symptoms: and bleeding, and blisters, always did her good. During that period she lived chiefly on milk.

The belly is to be fomented with cloths, wrung out of the common fomentation, agreeably warm, for half an hour, or longer, at a time; and as often as the pain becomes violent: and it is to be anointed, after each time, with a little camphorated oil.

She has been fomented many different times: and she is much easier this evening.

Her stools were more copious, and more frequent than ever, upon fomenting: she had particularly a very large stool, after each of the first four fomentations. The stools now come away almost insensibly; are still very offensive; and some of them froth and ferment like barm. She feels the stools to come, as it were entirely, from her left side. Her breathing is now free. Her spirits are better; and she finds herself very happy: but still she has no disposition to sleep. She has sweated the greatest part of the afternoon. The thirst continues; but the sickness is gone. Hardnesses and inequalities are felt in her belly. Her pulse is quick.

The fomentation and oil are continued: and she is to take a spoonful or two of the following mixture when low.

Take of simple mint water, and spring water, each three ounces; syrup of orange peel, an ounce; salt of hartshorn, twenty grains: mix them.

July 3. She had two stools in the night. She slept none; though she continued pretty easy till five this morning; when her whole belly, but particularly

the left side of it from about the height of the navel down to the groin, became affected with violent pain; which has continued with very little intervals; and is rather growing worse this forenoon. Breaking wind still relieves the pain. The belly is not tense. The thirst continues. Her skin is pretty cool. Her pulse is sharp, but scarce so quick.—As the mixture heated her, she has taken it but twice. The fomentation and oil do not relieve her now.

The same method is continued: and a large blister is to be applied immediately to the left side of her belly.

Having been very sick, she encouraged vomiting by drinking chamomile tea; and brought up some green phlegm. She has had six stools of a more natural colour, but still lumpy. The pain continues violent this afternoon. She is often very low, and despairs of living. She is much troubled with wind; and breaks some by means of the mixture; but still complains of its heat.

The mixture, fomentation, and oil, are to be omitted. She is desired to take a

spoonful of simple mint water, when low ; and two spoonfuls of the following julep immediately.

Take of the chalk julep, eight ounces ;
laudanum, sixteen drops : mix them.

She slept sound for an hour after the julep. Her belly is free from pain to-night. Her pulse is still quick.—The mint water relieves her ; and is to be continued.

July 4. She slept none, and was very low, in the night ; and continues so to-day. She is frequently sick, and retches, and brings up tough phlegm.—She also vomits whatever she takes. Her urine is copious, and with a sediment.—She is to take four grains of ipecacuanha immediately for a vomit.

She threw up a great deal of phlegm with the vomit ; and afterward had two stools, loose, and of a more natural appearance. She is very low, and loaths all sorts of food to-night ; but has not retched since the operation of the vomit. She complains much of thirst ; and yet says she cannot swallow, on account of a heat
and

and dryness in her throat; though nothing amiss can be seen in it. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is cool. She wishes much for sleep, having had none all day. —She got a little burnt wine diluted with water after the vomit: and it agreed with her. She also likes the mint water; and says it does her good. She is allowed to take a little of either occasionally. Chicken broth and panado are ordered for her, by turns, every two hours, when awake; and the following draught immediately.

Take of simple mint water, and lemon juice, each half an ounce; salt of tartar, twenty grains; rhubarb, five grains; laudanum, eight drops: mix them.

July 5. She had frequent refreshing sleeps in the night; and took her food regularly. Her spirits are better this morning. Her pulse is scarce so quick, and not low. She has had a tolerable day, having made no complaint but of lowness. She has had some unrefreshing sleep. She is still thirsty; and her pulse is, to-night, much as in the morning. Her tongue is
 D 4 moist.

moist. Her skin is temperate. She has had no stool.

The mint water is to be continued occasionally : and the draught, without laudanum, is to be repeated to-night. She took a spoonful of the following decoction at four in the afternoon ; and is to take another at six in the morning.

Take of the Peruvian bark powdered, one ounce ; spring water, three English pints : boil them together to one pint ; and strain the liquor for use.

July 6. Last night, she became sick, upon taking a little cowslip wine ; and vomited a great deal of phlegm. She had several refreshing sleeps, of half an hour at a time, in the night ; and is not so low to-day. She has had two loose stools : and, after the last, she got two spoonfuls of the chalk julep with laudanum. Her tongue is moist : but she is still thirsty. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is almost calm. She has little or no appetite : but sometimes she takes broth, or sago, or bread and a little wine much diluted with water.—She is to take a spoonful of the decoction

decoction at noon ; and two spoonfuls at four in the afternoon.

She had some refreshing sleep in the afternoon. The urine continues copious. Her thirst is less. Her pulse is quicker than in the morning. She says, she is better in every respect to-night,---She is to take two spoonfuls of the decoction immediately, and at six in the morning.

July 7. She passed a very good night ; and has had two hours refreshing sleep this evening. About eleven to-day, she was seized with pain in her belly ; which, in a quarter of an hour, went off, upon her menstrual discharge coming down : and it still continues. Her chief complaint is lowness. Her pulse is a little quick, and rather low. She has had one open stool, that is, neither loose, nor costive.

She is to take two spoonfuls of the decoction every six hours.

July 8. She has had a good night. She complains of lowness, and, now and then, of gripes, this morning. She has broke a great deal of wind downwards since last night ; as she has done through the whole course

course of her disorder. Her tongue is cleaner.—She is to take three spoonfuls of the decoction every six hours.

She has passed a pretty good day ; and has taken liquid food now and then. Her pulse is still a little quick. Her courses continue : but in very small quantity. She has had no stool.—The same method is continued : and the draught is to be repeated to-night.

July 9. She has passed a pretty good night. Upon having two open stools, she got two spoonfuls of the chalk julep with laudanum. She had just a show of her courses to day. She complains much of pain in making water. Her pulse is still a little quick.

The decoction is continued.

July 10. She rested ill in the night, having been disturbed with the child. She has had a stool of a natural appearance.

The same method is continued.

July 11. She was chilly about noon ; and has been hotter, and more feverish since. She complains of pain in her back and belly : the latter is relieved by break-

ing

ing wind. The courses are rather in more quantity. She has had no stool.

The decoction is continued : and she is to take four spoonfuls of the tincture of roses every four hours.

July 12. She rested well in the night. The chilness returned about four in the afternoon : since which, the pains of her back and belly have been worse ; her courses more copious ; and her spirits very low. Her pulse is quick, and somewhat hard. She has had one open stool.

The same method is continued : and a draught, as last ordered, but without rhubarb, is to be given with each dose of the decoction.

July 13. She has had a pretty good night. Her courses are still in considerable quantity ; especially when she is moved. She sweats sometimes, particularly when asleep. She has no thirst. Her skin is more temperate. Her pulse is softer, and calmer. She has had an open stool.

The same course is to be continued.

July 14. Though free from all pain, or uneasiness, she was restless, and did not sleep, till four in the morning : she then slept sound till eight. She was
chilly

chilly for a little in the morning. — She has had two or three hours refreshing sleep this evening. The uterine flux is much less : but piles begin to be troublesome to her ; though they do not bleed. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is soft, and calmer. — She takes a good deal of lemon juice in her drink.

The same course is continued.

July 15. She rested pretty well in the night ; and had none of the uterine discharge till this morning ; when it returned in very small quantity, upon her having a very costive stool. — The chilness, or creeping, as she expresses it, came on in the afternoon : since which she has been hot, and not so well. She is asleep this evening.

The same method is continued : and the rhubarb draught, as last ordered, is repeated to-night.

July 16. She was distressed with headache, great restlessness, and the uterine flux, through the whole night. She had a very hard stool in the morning ; which gave her great pain in coming away, though it was assisted by an emollient clyster, and other means.

means. She has been easier since; but is still feverish: and she had frequent slight chills, or creepings, through the day. She has also been often troubled with gripes, which were relieved by exploding wind backward, in great quantities. She complains of a stuffing at her stomach; and wishes she could spit. The flux is much less this evening. She has had some sleep.

The same method is continued: and half an ounce of manna is to be taken immediately.

July 17. She passed a better night. She had a very large, and very costive, stool in the morning. The fulness at her stomach is gone: but she is troubled with gripes, and, now and then, with chills. Her pulse is still quick. The uterine discharge is gone.

The same course is continued: and the manna is to be repeated, with the addition of two drams of Glauber's salt, in a draught.

July 18. She had a show of her courses, after voiding a very hard stool, last night.

night. She sweated a great deal, and was often chilly, in the night.

The decoction, and tincture, are omitted. The saline draughts are continued. The laxative is to be repeated.

July 21. She has either got a whole laxative draught, or half a one, every day since last report ; and has never been without a stool, and oftener two, in the day. She has never passed a day without some chills, or creepings. She often complains of pain in her belly ; which, she thinks, proceeds from wind. She is frequently distressed with troublesome dreams. Her pulse is quick, especially in the evening. This morning, she has had a stool, which is large, very black, loose, and full of hard lumps.

She is desired to confine herself to a milk diet. The saline draughts are continued.

July 22. She has been much distressed with pains in her belly to-day. She has had a very costive stool. Her pulse is quick.

She is to take five grains of calomel, made up into a bolus with a little conserve
of

of roses, to-night ; and the usual laxative draught, at the same time.

July 26. She has had stools from day to day, partly by clysters, and partly by the laxative draughts. The stools have always been black, and full of slime, skins, and hard lumps. She has passed a dead worm this morning. Her sleep is sometimes disturbed with dreams, Her belly is still a little pained. Her pulse is almost calm.

A bolus with seven grains of calomel, and the laxative draught, are to be repeated to-night.

July 28. Yesterday she had three stools, full of slime, skins, and pieces of dead worms. She has had no stool to-day, though she got a clyster. Her pulse is calm.—She is to take one of the following pills, every four hours, till she have a stool, beginning immediately.

Take of socotorine aloes, and hard soap, each a dram ; balsam of Peru, as much as is sufficient to make a soft mass ; which is to be divided equally into twenty four pills.

July

July 29. She has had two stools of a more natural colour, and without the usual mixture. She has no complaint, but weakness.—She has taken five pills.

July 30. She voided a very large, slimy, stool, with much pain, in the night; but has been easy ever since.

She is to take two of the pills at bedtime.

July 31. She has had one stool.—She is directed to take two pills every night, and four spoonfuls of the following mixture every forenoon and afternoon.

Take of a decoction of the Peruvian bark, one pint; simple tincture of the same, one ounce; salt of steel, thirty grains: mix them.

August 3. She gathers strength; and is now able to walk about the room. She has a stool every day.—She is allowed some meat at dinner. The medicines are continued.

By persevering in this course for some weeks, she acquired health, and strength, so as to be much better than she had ever been before.

C A S E II.

December 10, 1769. Mrs. C. D. aged twenty-four years, and of a delicate, thin, habit, was brought to bed this day was sevennight of a healthy child, and her first after having been married above two years : but she has had some abortions. It was a cross birth ; but every thing went on well. The lochia continued the usual time : and still there is a serous discharge. The milk also is in her breasts. These, and the belly, are quite soft, and natural. She is, however, in a fever, for which they can assign no cause : it is said not to be of two days standing ; and to have begun without any sensible chill fit. She complained of great oppression, and straitness of breathing, sickness, retching, and hawking up of phlegm : but she is much better since morning ; when she had two or three stools by means of a clyster, having been before deficient in that respect from her delivery. The sickness, and retching, are gone. The hawking continues. Her breathing is much

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better.

better. Her tongue is moist. She is thirsty. Her skin is soft. Her pulse beats a hundred and thirty strokes in the minute.

She is to take the saline draught with five grains of rhubarb, as in the preceding case, every four hours, till she have three or four stools.

December 11. She has passed a very good night, having slept sound for several hours. She has had four, very offensive, dark, slimy, stools. She feels quite happy, and free from complaints, since she has had the stools. Her respiration is free. Her pulse is calmer. Her heat, and thirst are less.

The draughts are to be continued in the same manner : and five grains of ipecacuanha are to be given for a vomit, in case of sickness and retching.

December 16. Having been called again this day, I find her very ill about eight in the evening. She brought up a great deal of phlegm, with the vomit, a few days ago. She has sweated profusely, for several hours to-day, from a dose of James's powder : but the fever notwithstanding

standing continues. She is delirious, though she knows every body, and gives distinct answers to questions. She gripes the bed clothes very much, and makes circular motions with her fore-arms, the one alternately moving round the other as an axis. She sighs often and heavily. Her tongue is dry. Her milk is almost gone. Her breasts and belly continue soft. She has taken a dose or two of the Peruvian bark : but she loathes it, and throws up every thing. Both urine and stools come away insensibly. The stools are black, and very offensive.

The vomit is to be repeated immediately.

December 17. She brought up a great deal of ropy phlegm with the vomit : and, as the vomiting continued after the stomach was cleared, she got ten drops of laudanum. She was not able to swallow so much as a tea spoonful of any thing in the night. She has no notion of swallowing this morning : for when any liquor is put into her mouth, and she is desired to swallow it, she tosses it to and fro, and then squirts it out, as though, she con-

ceived that, it was not in her power to let it down. Though delirious she still knows every body ; and is low spirited, and unhappy, about the grief her parents will be in when they come to know of her situation. She continues to hawk up frothy phlegm, to gripe the clothes, and perform the circular motions. Her breasts and bowels are soft. Her skin is cooler. Her pulse is not so quick, and still regular.—She got a clyster of a pint of broth with half an ounce of the extract of the bark and five drops of laudanum, in the night : and it is to be repeated this morning. She is also to have a little wine-whey, or wine and water, now and then.

She is rather better this evening, having taken the vinous liquors, and broth, through the day, and kept them.—She is to take half an ounce of the spirituous tincture of rhubarb immediately ; and two tea spoonfuls of the following tincture, every three hours, in a little wine and water.

Take of the simple tincture of the Peruvian bark, two ounces ; laudanum, eight drops.

Decem-

December 18. She has had several hours refreshing sleep in the night. She is amazingly better this morning. She talks rationally, and says she is much better. The circular motions are gone. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is still quick. She has had two stools of a much better appearance.—The same diet is continued: and five of the following pills, with a saline draught, are ordered for her every three hours.

Take of the extract of the Peruvian bark, two drams; extract of liquorice, half a dram; syrup of saffron, a sufficient quantity to make a soft mass; which is to be divided into forty pills.

December 19. She has had a good night; and continues better to-day.

The pills are to be continued: and the draught is to be taken with every other dose.—The tincture of rhubarb is to be repeated at night; and afterward occasionally.

After this she mended daily; and soon became plump, strong, and healthy.

C A S E III.

Friday, april 17, 1772. Mrs. E. F. aged about thirty years, was brought to bed of her first child on sunday morning ; and had a very good time. She found herself very well that day, monday and tuesday. On this last day the milk came in her breasts : and the lochia continued in the same quantity, but were paler. This same day, she eat for dinner some calf's heel, and drank some small beer after it : and, in the evening, she was seized with chilness, pain in her head, and back, weakness of her breath, sinking of her spirits, and thirst : which complaints, except the chilness that was succeeded by heat, have continued ever since. She has also been affected with an uneasy heat of her eyes, ears, and neck, at times, ever since the fever came on. She had a very small stool, by means of a clyster, on monday. At six on tuesday evening, she got two aloetick pills ; two at ten ; as many at midnight ; and a fourth dose early in the morning : notwithstanding of which

which she had no passage till yesterday in the afternoon, when she had a very large, foul, stool, and two smaller loose ones. She then took two spoonfuls of an opiate mixture ; and has had no stool since. From the time she took the pills, till they began to operate, she had great pain in her bowels ; often retched violently, and now and then brought up some phlegm. She now despairs of living ; is much lower since the stools ; and has still some pain in her bowels, though her belly be soft. She does not appear hot ; but her skin is hot, and rather moist. She is very thirsty. She feels inwardly as though she were quite hollow. She has no desire for food ; and has as yet, for the most part, only taken gruel, and sago with a little wine ; and these in very small quantity. Her pulse is very quick, and feeble. Her digestion is naturally weak. She is of a very costive habit. During pregnancy she was much troubled with phlegm, sourness of her stomach, and constipation. For this last complaint, neither rhubarb, or magnesia, had any effect : and she generally required an uncommon dose of the aloetick pills to

give her a stool.—She is to have gruel, barley-water, and small broth, by turns, for all her food ; and three spoonfuls of the following mixture every three hours.

Take of mint-water, five ounces ; camphorated julep, two ounces ; pure nitre, forty grains ; syrup of orange-peel, an ounce.

She had a mild, general sweat, to-day. She has slept sound, near four hours, this evening. Her pulse is calmer, and firmer.

The same method is continued.

April 18. She was seized with a coldness of her legs, last night, between ten and eleven ; which made her shake all over for two hours. She was afterward flushed, and hot, for some hours : and then an universal sweat succeeded. She has had little or no sleep. Her skin is moist this morning. Her pulse is not so quick. She has had no stool.—She dislikes broth ; but takes gruel, and barley-water, plentifully ; and is allowed tea, as she desires it.

She had a very severe shaking fit, which began at ten in the morning, and lasted

two hours ; she was afterward hot for two hours and a half ; and is in a gentle universal sweat this afternoon. She complains of a tremour through all her bones, notwithstanding the sweat. Her pulse is very low, and quick.—The sweat is going off to-night. Her pulse is calmer, and firmer. She has had two brown, loose, stools.

The same method is continued : and she is to have a bolus of five grains of rhubarb, and as much of the cordial confection, immediately. A blister is also to be applied to her arm this night ; and is to ly on twenty-four hours.

April 19. She shivered for a short time last night. She rested well in the night. She had a slight rigour about seven this morning, being almost as soon as she awaked : and it would come now, but she checks it. Her urine lets fall a smooth, white, sediment. She has had no stool—The mixture is continued. The bolus is to be repeated immediately, and at three in the afternoon.

She had a stool, of a good colour, in the afternoon. She slept for an hour this
even-

evening. She was chilly for a little about eight; and has been hot, and flushed, these two hours. She thinks she cannot recover. Her pulse is very low, and quick.—The following draught is to be given immediately, and repeated at four in the morning.

Take of mint-water, and lemon-juice, each half an ounce; proof spirit, two drams; salt of tartar, twenty grains; salt of hartshorn, three grains.

April 20. Six in the morning. She has slept near an hour to-night. She desponds much. The urine lately made, and though still warm in the glass, breaks. Her skin is cool, and rather moist. Her pulse is low, and rather quick. She has had a small stool.—She is to take two spoonfuls of the following mixture every two hours, beginning immediately.

Take of mint-water, eight ounces; extract of the Peruvian bark, two drams; laudanum, twelve drops.

She

She has passed a tolerable day ; and says she is better to-night. She has had no chilnefs ; but has been rather flushed, and hot, for a little time past. Her urine is copious, and of a good colour. She has had another small stool.—She has finished the mixture : and she took, besides, a saline draught in the afternoon.

She is to take four spoonfuls of the nitrous mixture immediately. The bark is to be repeated, and taken every three hours, beginning at one in the morning.

April 21. She rested a little in the night ; and has had two very small stools. Her skin is rather hot, and her pulse rather quick, this morning.—She has had a painful sensation all over her body for these two days ; so that she cannot bear to be touched. The same pain is in her belly, and groins : but her belly is soft. Her skin is hot, and moist. Her pulse is quick, and rather tense, to-night. The urine is not high coloured : and it lets fall a white sediment. She has had four stools since noon : and, after the last, she took a spoonful of the following opiate.

Take

Take of spring water, four ounces ;
proof spirit, syrup of orange-peel,
each half an ounce ; laudanum,
twenty drops.

She is desired to take the nitrous mixture, instead of the bark, till five in the morning ; when she is again to begin with the last, and continue it every four hours.

April 22. She slept a little in the night. She complains much of the pains in her bowels, and foreness all over her. She is still very low spirited, and apprehensive. She breaks wind freely. Her skin is moist, and cooler this morning. Her pulse is calmer and firmer. She has had some loose stools.—She is to take one spoonful of the bark mixture, with an equal quantity of the following julep, every four hours ; and also a spoonful of the same julep now and then when low.

Take of mint-water, seven ounces ; syrup of orange peel, half an ounce ; salt of hartshorn, thirty grains.

She

She was easy, and quiet, most of the afternoon ; and had a short, but refreshing, sleep. She complains, to-night, of the tremour, and general tenderness, with pain in her groins. . . The uterine discharge gradually lessened ; and has been quite gone these two days. The urine is a shade paler, and deposes a lighter sediment. Her skin is moist, and scarce so hot as last night : nor is her pulse so quick. She has had six stools, in all, since last night : and they are very offensive and dark.—She has taken small wine-whey by turns with her other food to-day.

The bark is omitted. The other medicines are continued.

April 23. She slept two hours in the night ; but none to-day. Her pulse has been soft, equal, and quick, all day. She complains still of great lowness ; and thinks she shall die. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is moist, and not hot. She makes urine in abundance ; but cannot bear the trouble of having it saved. She has had six stools since last night, notwithstanding the use of the opiate mixture ; but
none

none since three in the afternoon, when she got six drops of laudanum in two spoonfuls of the julep.—She is allowed panado with a little wine, by turns with the food recommended. She is to have two spoonfuls of the nitrous mixture every three hours, beginning immediately. The julep and opiate mixture are also to be continued occasionally.

April 24. The general forenefs, and tremour, are less to-night. She has slept, in all about three hours, since last night. She still desponds. Her pulse is equal, but too quick. Her urine is high coloured. She has had four stools.

The same method is continued.

April 25. She has had no sleep last night, or to-day. Her skin has been cool all day. Her pulse is soft, equal, and almost calm. The urine is turbid, and lets fall a gross sediment. She has had five stools : the last of which was a little ago ; and it is brown, slimy, and very offensive.

The bolus was repeated in the afternoon : and lest the colour of the stools may, in part, be owing to the extract of
the

the Peruvian bark, she got a spoonful of the following mixture; which is to be continued every six hours.

Take of a decoction of the Peruvian bark, eight ounces; simple tincture of the same, half an ounce; laudanum, twenty-four drops.

The nitrous mixture is omitted. The julep and opiate mixture are to be continued as usual.

April 26. She has slept a good deal, especially since morning. The general forenens is gone: but she complains of pain in her left arm, to-night; which gives her the sensation as though it were broken. Her skin is pretty cool. Her pulse is rather too quick. The urine deposits a good sediment; but still retains too much colour. She has had three brown stools.

The bark is discontinued. She is to take two spoonfuls of the nitrous mixture every four hours, beginning immediately. —The bolus is also to be repeated to-night: and the arm is to be anointed with

cam-

camphorated oil, and afterward wrapt in flannel.

April 27. She has had little or no sleep since last report. Her head is a little confused to-night. The urine continues muddy, after depositing a good sediment. Her skin is pretty cool. Her pulse is a little quick. She has had three dark stools.

The same method is to be continued: and the bolus is to be repeated, both at night, and in the morning.

April 28. She slept a little in the night, but none to-day. Her pulse has been quick, especially since noon. Her skin is moist, and pretty cool, to-night. The tremour, and tenderness, are almost gone. Her appetite is better. She thinks herself mending.

The same method, with the bolus, is to be continued.

April 29. She slept for three hours in the morning. Her pulse was calm most of the day; but is rather quick this evening. The urine deposits a pink sediment. She has had two stools of the usual appearance.---She had her clothes on to-day; and lay upon the bed, and sat up sometimes. The

The nitrous mixture is continued, with the addition of a dram of magnesia to the whole quantity. The boluses are continued.

April 30. She rested none in the night; but has had some sleep to-day. Her toes were a little cold in the afternoon; and she has been hot and flushed since. Her pulse is quicker to-night. The pain of her arm is still bad. She is also troubled with pain at her stomach. She has had one stool.

The mixture is repeated, with two drams of magnesia. The boluses are also to be continued, with the addition of three grains of rhubarb to each. A blister is to be applied to the pained part of the arm, to-night.

May 1. She had little or no sleep in the night; but has slept above an hour to-day. She was hot and feverish, through the day. Her skin is cool, and her pulse calm, and rather low, to-night. Her urine continues to break; and is scarce so high coloured. Her appetite is good. She has had four dark stools: and they have made her very low.

The nitrous mixture with magnesia is to be continued: and two spoonfuls of the bark are to be taken every six hours, beginning immediately.

May 2. She rested none in the night: but has had refreshing sleep, for two hours, this afternoon. The urine is high-coloured, and only with a cloud. Her skin is cool, and her pulse calm, this evening. She has had two small stools of a better colour.—She has lain upon the bed, in her clothes, most of the day.

The same course is continued; only the bark is to be repeated without laudanum.

May 3. She was restless, and feverish, in the night. She has had five copious, dark, and offensive stools. The urine deposes a whitish sediment. She is in a sweat this morning.—She is to have five drops of laudanum immediately. The mixture with magnesia is omitted. The bark is to be continued.

She has been hot and flushed, since three in the afternoon. She sweats this evening. Her pulse is quick. She has had a small stool.—The Bark mixture is omitted.

omitted. She is to have two spoonfuls of the magnesia mixture immediately; and the same quantity at four in the morning. The bolus is to be repeated to-night.

May 4. She has had several refreshing sleeps since last night; Her skin is cool this morning. Her pulse is quick. She has had no stool.—She is to take a dram of magnesia, in two ounces of simple mint water, immediately.

She was hot, and flushed, a good part of the day; and sweated profusely till of late. Her pulse is still quick this evening. The urine is a shade lighter. She has had one small stool.—She is to take three spoonfuls of the nitrous mixture with magnesia, every four hours, till she have a stool: and a saline draught, with sixteen grains of rhubarb and as many drops of laudanum, is to be taken to-night.

May 5. She has passed a very restless night. She has had four, large, dark, slimy, stools: the last of which was at four this morning, when the mixture was discontinued. Her skin is hot, and her pulse quick, this evening.—The mixture

with magnesia is to be repeated every four hours till she have a stool, beginning immediately.

She sat up for an hour to-day; and was in better spirits than usual. Her pulse is quick this evening. She has had four small stools, dark, and slimy, like frogs spawn.—The rhubarb draught, with twenty-five drops of laudanum, is to be repeated to-night: and she is to begin the mixture in the morning at four.

May 6. She slept from ten to four this morning; and awaked much refreshed. She has been troubled with hot, and sweating fits, to-day; and with some pain of her stomach, at times. Her urine is a shade paler; and deposes a light, white, sediment. Her pulse is a little quick this evening. She has had four small stools of the usual appearance.—She has taken the mixture every three hours.

The draught is to be repeated at ten: and she is to begin the mixture, as soon as she awakes, in the morning; and to go on with it every three hours.

May 7. She had a tolerably quiet night; but did not sleep much. She sweated a good deal early in the morning.
She

She says, she was very hot, and feverish, to-day. She was also affected with pain, and great oppression, at her stomach; and felt, as though she should die, if she did not vomit: but these symptoms went off with a stool. Her urine was paler in the morning; but that made since noon is high-coloured, even after depositing a light white sediment. To-night she complains of pain in the side of her face. Her pulse is little quicker than natural. She has had six, dark, slimy, stools.

The mixture is to be omitted. The draught is to be repeated to-night.

May 8. She had a quiet night; but did not sleep much. She complains of a load at her stomach, this morning. Her skin is rather hot. Her pulse is almost calm. The urine is paler.—She is to take twenty grains of ipecacuanha immediately for a vomit; and to drink chamomile tea to promote its operation.

The vomit operated only twice; and brought up some phlegm. She has had nine stools in all since last night; five before, and four since, the vomit: they are still lumpy, and slimy; but, since the

vomit, have a yellowish cast. She had a good deal of pain in her stomach and bowels, after the vomit, till she began to have stools. The urine is now almost colourless. Her pulse is still a little quick. She only complains of lowness this evening.

She is to take a saline draught with thirty drops of laudanum, and ten grains of rhubarb, to-night.

May 9. She passed a good night. Her pulse was quite calm, and her urine almost colourless, in the morning. About noon, whilst at stool, she became chilly, and shivered a little for a few minutes; and has been hot ever since. Her pulse is a little quick this evening. She still complains of her arm. The urine lets fall a gross sediment; and was high-coloured when made in the afternoon. She has had no stool.

The draught is to be repeated, with the addition of six grains of rhubarb: and she is to take three spoonfuls of the magnesia mixture, every three hours, beginning at four in the morning.

May

May 10. She has had a good night. She finds herself easy this morning. Her pulse is calm. Her skin is cool. The urine is of a straw colour. She has had one dark stool.—She has been hot this afternoon, but not so much so as yesterday. Her pulse is still rather quick this evening. The arm is worst during the exacerbations: and, she says, the heat of the pained part is then so great, that, were she to be equally hot all over, it would be insupportable. She is not thirsty. She dislikes taking any liquid; because, she says, it heats her. She has had no stool.

The draught is to be repeated immediately; and the mixture continued, every three hours, through the night.

May 11. She passed a pretty quiet night; but had little sleep till morning. She was often a little chilly in the day. Her pulse was calm in the morning; but is a little quick to-night. Her skin is hot. She complains of great lowness, and that the heat of her eyes, and ears, is as bad as ever. The urine was of a pale straw colour, and without sediment, in the morning: that made since noon is

rather high coloured, and has a light, white, sediment. She has had five, small, dark, stools.—She has had her clothes on, and lien upon the bed as usual.—The mixture was discontinued in the afternoon.

The draught, with the addition of five drops of laudanum, is to be continued.

May 12. She passed a restless night: and what sleep she had was not refreshing. This morning, she complains of the heat in her eyes, and ears, and of a sinking in her spirits.—She is to take the following draught, every three hours, beginning immediately.

Take of a decoction of the Peruvian bark, two ounces; simple tincture of the same, a dram; extract of liquorice, fifteen grains.

The urine, made at six in the morning, was of a good colour; in the day, it was rather high-coloured, and broke; to-night, it is pale. She complains of soreness of her feet, as though they were covered with corns, pains of her knees and right arm, and great lowness. She felt

felt lately, as though she should have been choaked with phlegm: and she was then exceeding low. She has had two dark stools.

The draughts are to be continued. She is to have a saline draught, with thirty-five drops of laudanum and ten grains of rhubarb, to-night; and two spoonfuls of the julep, as often as she is low.

May 13. She has had a good night, and day, having been only a little hot at times, and low. Her pulse is calm. Her skin is hot. Her palms are moist. Her tongue is moist. She is not dry. She has had two dark stools: and the last, though small, made her low.—She has taken three drops of laudanum, in each draught, since morning.

The draughts are to be taken every four hours, beginning to-night at ten o'clock. Ten grains of the cordial confection are to be added to each draught; and thirty drops of laudanum, to the first.

May 14. She has had an indifferent day. She was chilly about one o'clock, and has been hot ever since. Her pulse
is

is quick. The left arm is very painful, especially at the shoulder, and elbow; and the fore arm is œdematous. She has had no stool.

The draughts are omitted. She is to have a clyster of chamomile tea with sugar and oil immediately. She is to take the following bolus, as soon as it can be got ready, with three spoonfuls of the following julep: and the same quantity of the julep is to be taken every three hours after.

Take of rhubarb, and the cordial confection, each ten grains; laudanum, ten drops.

Take of mint-water, seven ounces; lemon juice, three ounces; proof spirit, syrup of orange-peel, each one ounce; salt of tartar, two drams.

May 15. She has passed an indifferent night. She has slept, for three hours, this morning. She complains much of her arm. She had a stool with the clyster; but none since.

The julep is continued. A dram of magnesia is ordered to be taken immediately;

diately; and to be repeated in three hours. The arm is to be fomented, and afterward anointed with the camphorated oil.

She has been hot ever since noon. Her pulse is quick to-night. She has had one costive stool.—It appears that, for some days, she has been much teased, and carried about the room; under the notion that exercise is the only thing requisite for her recovery.

The julep is continued. She is to have a bolus, of sixteen grains of rhubarb and as much cordial confection, to-night.

May 16. Her arm is still painful. Her pulse is calm this morning. She has had three stools.—She had a slight feverish exacerbation in the afternoon. The urine was very high-coloured in the forenoon: some made since is less so. She has had one dark stool.

The julep and applications are continued: and the bolus is to be repeated at bedtime.

May 17. She was hot, and sweated, in the night. She slept about an hour and a half in the morning.—She sweated a little to-day, but without much heat. Her pulse

pulse has been calm all day. The urine is of a good colour, and without sediment. She has had two stools.

The julep is omitted. She is to take fifteen drops of the acid elixir of vitriol every four hours; and a bolus of rhubarb, with the cordial confection, each eight grains, at bed-time.

May 18. She sweated less in the night; and had some sleep towards morning. She has passed a pretty good day. She has had one costive stool.

The drops are continued: and the bolus, with ten grains of rhubarb, is to be taken to-night.

May 19. She passed a better night than usual, and a pretty good day. She seems to have no complaint but weakness. She has had three stools: and the last was of a bright yellow colour.

She has drank half a pint of asses milk for some mornings past: and, as it agrees with her, it is to be continued. The bolus, with eight grains of rhubarb, is to be repeated, every night, for some time.

C A S E IV.

September 18, 1772. Mrs. G. H. aged thirty-three years, was brought to bed, on the tenth current, and had a very good time. On the third day from delivery, she had seven or eight stools; and every day since, not less than three or four. At first, the stools were of a dark colour; but are now of a yellowish cast. Her belly has been all over affected with soreness, since the third day; which sometimes increases to violent pain, attended with rigours, but without any sense of cold. These rigours sometimes continue half an hour at a time: and are never succeeded either by heat, or sweats. Her belly is soft; and not much affected by pressure. She has very little milk, though she suckles her child. Her pulse is *calm*. She is thirsty. Her appetite is bad.

She also labours under a violent cough, dyspnoea, and copious, slimy, expectoration, of six months standing: and her belly has been rather loose, for the last three months. Her cough has always
 5 been

been relieved by stools. Her breathing is free in proportion to the quantity of her expectoration: she is much disposed to sweat, especially in the night. Her habit of body is much extenuated.

The child is to be weaned immediately. The patient is to take a spoonful of the cordial mixture, as in the general method of cure, when low, or when the cough is troublesome—a cup of chamomile-tea every forenoon and afternoon—and two of the following pills every night.

Take of chalk, gum arabick, and rhubarb, all powdered, each twenty grains; laudanum, twenty drops: mix, and reduce them, with a little water, to a soft mass; which is to be formed into twelve equal pills.

The belly is also to be fomented for half an hour, and afterward anointed with the camphorated oil, every night and morning.

By this method, the disorder in her bowels was soon entirely removed.

C A S E V.

Thursday, march 4, 1774. Mrs. J. K. aged forty-six years, was delivered of a child at the full time yesterday morning. She has been subject, at times, to uterine hæmorrhages, for some months past. Last sunday, having eat something that disagreed with her stomach, she was seized with a vomiting and purging; on wednesday she had four stools from a laxative; and yesterday, the uterine flux having been considerable, the waters about the child gone, and the labour-pains weak, it was judged necessary to hasten delivery by manual operation. The delivery was safe: and the child is healthy and plump.—She has passed a very indifferent night, having had very short, unrefreshing, slumbers. She complains much of pain across her forehead, bearing down pains in her belly, lowness, and thirst. She is apprehensive that she shall not live. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is rather hot. Her pulse is low, and beats a hundred and thirty strokes in the minute, this

this morning. Her pulse is said to have been quick, and low, for some days preceding delivery. She has had no stool since she was brought to bed.

She is to have gruel, and barley-water, by turns, for all her food. She is to take the following draught every six hours, beginning immediately.

Take of simple mint-water, an ounce;
camphorated julep, half an ounce;
white sugar, a dram and a half;
nitre, twenty grains.

The pain of her belly is gone. The headach continues. She is still very apprehensive, and low. Her pulse is low, and beats a hundred and twenty-five strokes in the minute, to-night. She has had no stool.

Small broth is added to her diet: and the draughts are to be continued. A clyster, of a pint of chamomile tea and a large spoonful of common salt, is to be given immediately.

March 5. She had a good deal of refreshing sleep in the night. There is milk in her breasts. The uterine flux diminishes.

nishes. The urine is very copious. Her pulse is low, and beats a hundred and ten strokes in the minute, this morning. She had a dark, offensive, loose, stool, from the clyster. — The same method is continued.

Her headach continues. Her belly is very soft. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is low, and beats ninety-six strokes in the minute to-night. Her urine is still copious. The uterine discharge is very pale, and is said to be great. There is a very offensive smell about the patient. — The following draught is to be given every four hours, beginning immediately.

Take of a decoction of the Peruvian bark, an ounce and a half ; simple tincture of the same, a dram ; nitre, ten grains.

March 6. She was restless in the night ; but had two hours sleep this morning, attended with a general mild sweat. She still complains of headach and lowness. Her pulse is scarce so low, and beats ninety strokes in the minute. The urine is pale with some sediment.

It now appears that the flux was not great, but trifling, yesterday ; as it is this morning. — She has taken three draughts ; and says, they do her good. All the clothes, and even the bedding, have been changed.---The same course is continued.

She slept sound for an hour, to-day. She had a chilly fit in the afternoon ; and has been hot and thirsty ever since. The headach continues. The urine is of a watery colour, with some sediment. The pulse beats a hundred and fifteen strokes in the minute this evening. She has had no stool. The fetor about the bed is almost gone.—The Bark is discontinued : and the nitrous draughts are to be repeated every six hours as before, ten grains of rhubarb being added to the first. The clyster is to be repeated immediately : and a blister is to be applied to her arm this night.

March 7. She rested well in the night. She had two stools with the clyster ; and a loose one, this morning. All the stools were offensive, and dark. Her headach is gone. Her pulse beats ninety-six
strokes

strokes in the minute.—She has had a good day. Her spirits are good. Her appetite begins to be craving. The thirst is gone. Her pulse beats ninety-six strokes in the minute to night.

The same method is continued.

March 8. She has passed a very good night. Her spirits are good this morning. Her skin is cool. Her pulse beats ninety strokes in the minute.—She complains of headach, and throbbing in her ears, to-night. Her skin is rather hot. Her spirits are low. Her pulse beats ninety-six strokes in the minute. She has had no stool since yesterday.

The same course is continued : and she is to have ten grains of rhubarb, and as much cordial confection, immediately.

March 9. She was restless in the night, was chilly, and afterward hot and sweated : but she had a very large, offensive, dark stool, in the morning, which, she says, relieved her much. She has slept almost all day ; and is much refreshed with the sleep. Her skin is moist, and warmer than natural. Her pulse is not low, and beats a hundred strokes in the

minute, this afternoon. Her headach continues.

The bolus and draughts are continued.

March 10. She passed a pretty good night. She was chilly in the morning. She has no pain in her head, but upon being moved. Her tongue is moist. She has very little thirst. Her skin is warmer than natural, and rather moist. The uterine flux is now very small. Her pulse beats a hundred strokes in the minute, this afternoon. She has had no stool.— There are too many clothes on the bed, and too much fire in the room.

The medicines are continued: and the clyster is to be repeated immediately.

March 11. She passed a good night. She had a small stool of a better colour, from the clyster; but none since. She is rather low; and has some pain in her head, this morning, but no where else. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is temperate. Her pulse is rather low, and beats ninety strokes in the minute. Her urine is of a yellowish colour with a white sediment in small quantity.

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The draughts are to be continued, with an equal quantity of the polychrest salt instead of nitre; and she is to take half an ounce of manna immediately.

March 12. She rested well last night. She had three very offensive, dark, stools, in the morning: which evacuation raised her spirits greatly, and removed a sourness of her stomach, that had been troublesome to her.---She had shooting pains in her ears to-day, but no headach.---She is restless, and tired, this evening; and was so yesterday, at the same time, owing, in a great measure, to her having seen, and conversed, with different people through the day. She is low, and apprehensive. Her skin is moist, and warmer than natural. Her pulse is not so low, and beats ninety strokes in the minute. She complains of a chilly, creeping, numb, sensation, all over her skin, for some days; which she had likewise been troubled with before her delivery. Her tongue is moist. Her urine continues copious. Her appetite is not so good. She is troubled with wind, and breaks it freely. She complains of the heat of the draughts

—She is to take the following draught every fix hours.

Take of spring water, an ounce and a half; polychrest salt, twenty grains; white sugar, a dram and a half.

March 13. She has passed a good night; and is better to-day. Her pulse is calmer. She has had no stool. She dislikes the draughts much.

The draughts with camphire and nitre are to be repeated: and she is to have a bolus of rhubarb and the cordial confection, each fifteen grains, to-night.

March 14. She was restless, and low, in the night. She had one stool before she took the bolus, and three to-day. They were all offensive, dark, and slimy. Her spirits are better since she had the stools. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is very low, and beats seventy-six strokes in the minute, to-night. Wind sometimes occasions gripes; otherwise her belly is quite easy. She has no complaint in her head, or ears. Her appetite is bad. Her stomach is sour.

She is to take the bolus every second or third night; and two tea spoonfuls of the simple tincture of the Peruvian bark, in a cup of chamomile tea, twice a day.

By this method she acquired her usual health: and, in the course of recovery, she passed some large round worms.

C A S E VI.

March 12, 1774. Mrs. L. M. aged twenty-six years, has been troubled with a cough, and difficulty of breathing, ever since Michaelmas; and believed herself, within these two days, to be twenty weeks gone with child. For the first thirteen weeks she had no menstrual discharge: but, during the last seven, she has had it without interruption, though various as to the quantity. From the time that the flux took place, she has been troubled with pains in her belly, particularly in the right side of it, and down the groin, swelling of her legs, scarcity of urine, heat, thirst, and a quick pulse. Medicines relieved her breath much, and almost entirely removed the

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cough:

cough : but the other symptoms continued without the least abatement. The night before last, she was seized with sickness, vomiting, and pains like labour-pains. The pains continued bad, at times, yesterday : and, last night, there were all the appearances of an approaching abortion, which it was judged necessary to forward by manual operation ; as the flux was violent, notwithstanding a variety of means had been used to check it. The abortion proved to be a false conception : and clots of blood, firm like pieces of liver, came away at the same time. This false conception consisted of a placenta, and a prodigious number of hydatids of various sizes, which amounted in the whole, to more than half an English gallon ; and, at a distance, had much the appearance of frogs spawn. The largest of the hydatids was about the size of a grape. The whole were so many thin membranous vesicles, distended with clear water ; and were connected to one another, and to the placenta, by cellular substance, and blood vessels. — Last night was the best she has had for some time.

She

She had severe bearing down pains in the morning. She, then, got an emollient clyster, which soon came away, and was followed by a very large yellow stool : and, much about the same time, a large, tough, clot of blood came from the womb ; since which, her belly has been much easier ; but is still sore all over, and especially from below the navel. Her whole belly is also sore to the touch, but quite soft. She complains likewise of pain across her forehead, some difficulty of breathing, heat, and thirst. Her skin is hot. Her pulse is sharp, and beats a hundred and thirty strokes in the minute, to-day.--- Gruel, and barley-water, are ordered for all her food. She is to take a fourth part of the following mixture, every six hours, beginning immediately.

Take of spring water, eight ounces ;
 syrup of orange-peel, an ounce ;
 nitre, eighty grains.

This evening, her face is flushed, and her breathing continues a little affected. The uterine discharge is copious. She
 makes

makes water freely. She has had no sleep.
—The mixture is to be continued.

March 13. She had a chilly fit last night; which was succeeded by a hot fit, without sweat. She had some refreshing sleep in the night. During the exacerbation, the pain across her forehead was worse; and she was troubled with a throbbing noise in her ears. Her skin is cool, and palms moist, this morning. Her belly is much easier: but it is affected by the cough. Her tongue is moist, and not white. Her urine continues copious. She has had no stool.---She slept for an hour to-day. Her belly is tolerably easy to-night; except when she coughs. She is still troubled with some pain in her head, and noise in her ears. Her breathing also continues a little affected. Her spirits are very low. Her tongue is moist. Her skin is cool, and rather moist. Her pulse is low, and beats a hundred and twenty strokes in the minute. The uterine discharge is pale, and much less. The urine is copious, and lets fall a sediment. She has had no stool.---She is
allowed

allowed small broth, by turns with her other food.

The mixture is continued : and she is to take forty grains of the polychrest salt, in a draught, immediately,

March 14. She coughed a great deal, and was very restless, and very low, in the night. The cough affected both her head, and belly. She has had some refreshing short sleeps, this morning : but what she had in the night did her more harm than good. Her head and belly are much easier. The wind makes much noise in her bowels : but she does not pass any. She had no chilly fit yesterday, or last night. She was not hot in the night. Her pulse is soft, and beats a hundred strokes in the minute.---The bed having smelled, last night, all the linen about the patient was changed. She has had three, or four, small stools, of a very bright yellow colour, and not loose.

She was chilly, for a little, about an hour after noon ; and was afterward hot for four hours, during which time, the pain of her head was very severe, but her

her breathing was free. Her cough is much less frequent. Her breath continues free. Her spirits are much better since she was shifted. Her belly is not so sore. Her skin is cool. She is not thirsty. Her pulse beats a hundred and ten strokes in the minute to-night. Her urine is pale, and soon deposes a crude grey sediment.

The same method is continued : and the draught, with polychrest salt, is to be repeated immediately.

March 15. She passed a restless night. She was chilly at one in the morning for a quarter of an hour; and afterward hot till seven. During the hot fit the pain of her head was bad, the cough frequent, and thirst intense. She never sweats. Her skin is cool this morning. Her belly is quite soft, and free from all pain, or soreness. The uterine discharge is without colour. Her pulse is low, and beats a hundred and ten strokes in the minute. She has had three costive very yellow stools.---She has been quite cool since morning. Her head is pretty easy, except when she attempts to raise it from
the

the pillow. Her breath is free. Her tongue is moist. Her urine, as in the morning, is of a yellowish colour, quickly becomes turbid, and, in less than half an hour, drops a crude, grey, sediment. She has had four very small stools, partly loose, and of the usual colour. Her pulse is low this evening, and beats a hundred strokes in the minute.

The same course is continued : and four drops of laudanum are to be given her immediately.

March 16. She became hot, without any perceptible chill, between six and seven last night ; and continued so, till early in the morning, but never sweated. Her head, and breathing, were a good deal affected, during the hot fit. She has had very little sleep, and that not refreshing. This morning, her head is pretty easy, except when she raises it from the pillow. The cough is much abated. She is still very low. She has not been thirsty since last report. Her skin is cool. The sediment of the urine continues to drop soon ; but is whiter, and rather lighter. — She has been quite cool since morning;

morning ; but complains of headach as usual, pain of her back, some difficulty of breathing, and aching pains all over her belly. Her cough continues better. Her pulse is sharp, and beats a hundred and ten strokes in the minute, to-night. She breaks no wind. She has had no stool.

The mixture is continued : and ten grains of rhubarb, with an equal quantity of the cordial confection, are to be given her immediately.

March 17. She began to be hot, last night, at nine, without any preceding chill, and continued so most of the night ; during which time her breathing was very strait. She had a stool at three in the morning ; and, much about the same time, a redish uterine discharge. These evacuations gave immediate relief to her head, back, and belly : which last was affected not only with an aching, but a bearing down, pain. The stool was large, and of a tolerably good colour, but still costive. This morning, she has no pain, either in her back, or belly ; and her headach is inconsiderable. Her skin

skin is cool. Her pulse beats ninety-five strokes in the minute. The sediment of the urine is still whiter. — She has had a good day. Her pulse beats a hundred strokes in the minute to-night. Her spirits are better. The headach is trifling, except when she attempts to rise from the pillow. The uterine flux is rather more, and of the same colour. Her belly is quite easy. She has had no stool.

The bolus and mixture are continued.

March 18. A bearing down pain, affecting her whole belly, began a little after eight last night, and continued several hours: but the violence of it was taken off, in less than two hours, by means of a clyster of salt and water, which brought away two, dark, slimy stools, and mostly costive. She was rather hot in the night. She slept a good deal, and always awaked very low, and faint. She has never been chilly, and has coughed very little, since last report. She has still some head-ach: and her breathing is a little affected this morning. Her belly is quite easy. The uterine

rine flux is very little, and colourless. She has no thirst. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is low, small, and beats ninety-five strokes in the minute.

The mixture is omitted. She is to have two tea spoonfuls of the simple tincture of the Bark, in a cup of chamomile tea, every forenoon and afternoon. And she is to take a spoonful of the following mixture, at any time when low.

Take of mint-water, seven ounces ;
 syrup of orange-peel, an ounce ;
 salt of hartshorn, forty grains.

She was seized with pain all over her belly soon after last report ; which, after having been violent for some time, gradually abated, and was entirely off about three in the afternoon : and her belly has been quite easy ever since. Her breathing is quite free to-night : but it was much affected during the colick. Her bowels did not rumble during the pain : and she is not much troubled with wind. She broke wind downwards in the day. She has still some pain in her forehead. She
 has

has slept none since last night. She has no thirst. She is not so low. Her pulse beats a hundred strokes in the minute. The urine is pale: and the sediment is less in quantity, and grows daily whiter. She says, the medicines do her good.— It appears that she has had much unnecessary cause of uneasiness these two days.

The same method is continued. The bolus is to be repeated immediately with four spoonfuls of the camphorated mixture, containing only half the quantity of nitre. And the belly is to be embrocated with a spoonful of the camphorated oil.

March 19. She had a great deal of refreshing sleep last night. She has no pain any where, but a little in her forehead. She coughs very little, and breathes freely. Her spirits are much better. Her thirst is gone. Her skin is cool. Her pulse is low, and beats eighty-eight pulsations in the minute to-day. The urine has a light, white, sediment. She has had no uterine discharge since yesterday morning. She has had one very bilious

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offensive

offensive stool; which is partly costive. —She says, the oil warmed her bowels, and did her much good.

The tincture and cordial mixture are to be continued as before. The bolus is to be repeated every other night, beginning to-night. Four spoonfuls of the camphorated mixture are to be taken thrice every natural day, at six in the evening, at midnight, and six in the morning.

By this method she soon recovered perfect health and strength.

C A S E VII.

November 25, 1774. N. O. aged twenty-seven years, of a thin habit, and unmarried, was brought to bed of her first child on the fifteenth current in the morning. From her delivery, she complained of a pain in the left side of her belly within the haunch-bone, which was relieved by breaking wind. She was, in other respects, quite well till the seventeenth in the night; when she awaked in a shivering

a shivering fit, which was succeeded by great heat : and she has been more or less feverish ever since. She has had two cold fits to-day ; the first was a shivering fit, which began at ten, and continued for an hour ; the other was only a chilness that lasted a few minutes, about seven, this evening. There are aching pains through all her bones during the cold fits, but at no other time. A pain over her eyes has been more or less troublesome ever since the beginning of the fever. Her tongue is moist, and not white. She is thirsty. She has a little of a cough for these four or five days : and her breathing is a little affected. She has been troubled with lowness and faintness all along ; but was never apprehensive of danger till within these three hours, when she had a creeping sensation under her breasts, and felt as though her breath were leaving her. Till to-day, her appetite has been tolerable for small broth, gruel, and the like. She has now no desire for food : and she was sick lately after taking some broth. Her skin is hot ; and her breasts and belly

are particularly so. Ever since the morning of the day after delivery, her breasts have been full of milk ; and uneasy, through their distention, heat, and weight. Her belly, though naturally small, is large, but soft ; and free from all uneasiness beside the uncommon heat, the pain having left it about a week ago. The feverish exacerbations have always been attended with general sweats, which only served to increase the faintness. Her pulse is small, and beats eighty strokes in the minute. The lochia, after having followed the regular course, entirely left her on the nineteenth. She was very costive during pregnancy. She had a small very costive stool on the eighteenth. Since that time she has had two clysters ; each of which brought away a very large, dark, slimy stool, beside smaller loose ones. These clysters were administered at her own desire ; as she felt, from time to time, a heat and peculiar uneasiness in her bowels, which, she said, could only be relieved by stools.—Her spirits have been much depressed for several months past.

past. She has suckled her child, and her breasts have also been drawn occasionally ever since the day of her delivery.

She is to have broth, gruel, and barley-water, by turns, for all her food.

She is to take a powder, consisting of ten grains of rhubarb, and as much nutmeg, this evening; and a fourth part of the following mixture every six hours, beginning immediately.

Take of spring water, eight ounces; white sugar, half an ounce; nitre, a dram.

November 26. She sweated, and had several refreshing sleeps, in the night. She has broke a great deal of wind downward. The urine made last night was of a pale yellowish colour, and very soon let fall a whitish pink sediment in large quantity: that made at eight in the morning abounds with the same kind of sediment in still greater quantity. There is a pellicle, or scum, on each of the urines: and their bodies resemble common water

that is rather foul. She is not so low. Her skin is more temperate. Her pulse beats eighty strokes in the minute this forenoon.—She was hot in the day, but without any preceding chill. She had some refreshing sleep, and awaked in a sweat. Her head is free from pain this evening. Her faintness and lowness are still less. She is not thirsty. Her appetite is better. Her whole body is of a more temperate heat. Her pulse beats eighty pulsations in the minute. She has had a large, dark, slimy, stool, lately, from the usual clyster of salt and water.

The powder and mixture are to be repeated.

November 27. She had her clothes on, and sat up, and lay, by turns, upon the bed, to-day. She has no thirst. Her skin is of a natural heat. Her pulse is calm. The urine has a copious, whitish pink, sediment, of very quick separation. The body of the urine is like foul water containing innumerable particles of the same colour with the sediment, which tend to the bottom by gentle agitation.

She

She has had a small stool, without slime, and of a pretty good colour, from a clyster, this evening.

The powder and mixture are omitted. She is to take ten grains of the aloetick pills this night.

November 28. She sweated a little in the night, but none to-day. Her urine was of a more yellow colour to-day; did not break for two hours; and, at last, let fall a white sediment, and in much less quantity. Her thirst is gone. Her appetite is craving. She had an open, yellow, stool, in the morning; and another, this evening, open also, but brown.

The two pills are to be repeated to-night.

November 30. She makes no complaint. She sleeps well; and sweats only a little when asleep. The urine is of a natural colour, these two days; and does not become turbid for more than four hours. The sediment is in small quantity, and still whiter: and the body of the urine continues like water muddy with

loose particles of the same colour with the sediment.

The pills are continued for this night only.

December 3. She was seized at eight last night with a shivering fit, which continued two hours: and she has been hot and thirsty ever since. A sweat only begun within this half hour: and it is mild and general. She complains of pain over her eyebrows, faintness, weakness, and loss of appetite, ever since the cold fit came on. Her milk continues in plenty. Her pulse beats a hundred strokes in the minute, to-day, about noon. The urine, that was made just after the hot fit began, has a white well digested, that is, a smooth and compact, sediment, with a crude, pink, surface: the body of this urine has a yellowish cast; and is a little muddy from loose particles which fall down by agitation. The urine made in the morning is of a transparent yellow colour, and has a small, very white, cloud-like sediment.

The pills are to be repeated.

December

December 4. The sweat continued, and was profuse through the night, and went off about nine this morning. She has been of a natural heat ever since. Her pulse is quite calm this afternoon. The urine, made at ten last night, is rather high coloured, continues transparent, and has a small, white, cloud-like sediment. That made about eight in the morning has a gross, copious, pink, sediment: its body is still yellowish; and contains loose subsiding particles. She has had an open stool.—She had a tertian ague in the spring, five or six years ago, which lasted eight weeks. She will assign no cause for the fever fit.

December 7. At six in the morning she awaked in a shivering fit, which, after an hour's continuance, was succeeded by great heat. She fell asleep at noon, awaked in a sweat at one, was quite cool by two o'clock, and has continued so ever since. She made water twice, and in great quantity, during the paroxysm: the first, made at nine, was very pale; the second was of a yellowish cast. She had a stool

on the fifth naturally, and one to-day from a clyster which was administered after the sweat was over. All her stools are of a good appearance. The headach which came with the fever continues to-night. She has milk in plenty. Her appetite is good.—It now appears that she met with great uneasiness on the fifth current at night; that she has been much employed for these two days with her needle; and that she has been indulging a keen appetite to the full, not only with such food as is allowed her, but also with toasted bread soaked in melted butter.

December 8. She was of a natural heat, sweated some, and rested well in the night. Her pulse to-day at noon is quite calm. Her appetite is keen: and she eats her bread now without butter. Yesterday's urine still retains its colour and transparency without any mark of separation, except a very trifling white cloud-like sediment. The urines made last night and in the morning broke in less than half an hour; and, after having let fall a copious high-coloured sediment,

are both of a muddy yellowish cast, seemingly, from loose, diffused, particles.

The pills are repeated.

December 9. She rested well; and sweated a little in the night. Her skin is temperate. Her pulse is calm. Her appetite is keen. She has no thirst. Her milk is in plenty. She makes but little water at a time. The urine, made at ten last night, was of a yellow colour, became turbid in a quarter of an hour, and has, to-day, a copious sediment, and white, inclining a very little to pink. The urine made at nine in the morning is of a deep yellow, underwent no alteration for three hours, and has now only a very inconsiderable, white, cloud-like sediment.

December 10. She has had a very good night. She sweated a little in the morning. Her skin is always temperate. Her pulse is calm this afternoon. Her appetite is keen. She improves in flesh and strength. The urine made at nine last night did not become turbid for an hour; and has, to-day, a copious, whitish
pink,

pink, sediment; while the body of it has little or no colour, but from diffused particles. The morning's urine is of a pale yellow, still retains both colour and transparency, and has a very small, white, cloud-like sediment. She had a stool yesterday, and another to-day, of the best colour yet.—Oatmeal hasty-pudding is added to her diet, as she desires it.

December 11. She is in good health and spirits. The urine is rather paler than natural, does not break for many hours, and at last, lets fall a white sediment. She has had a natural stool.

December 14. She is in good health. She continues to suckle her child. She has a natural stool every day.—She is now allowed a little meat at dinner.

C A S E VIII.

March 17, 1775. Mrs. P. Q. aged thirty-seven years, and of a slender healthy habit, was brought to bed of her first child on the twenty-eighth of the last month, about noon. The night after
delivery

delivery she was greatly distressed with grinding, that is, bearing down, pains; but they went off upon the discharge of a good deal of clotted blood from the womb. The milk came plentifully into her breasts on the second current. Every thing went on well till the fourth; when, her husband having been taken ill, she became very restless, and unhappy, and was seized, on the sixth, with a cold fit, succeeded by pain over her eyebrows, faintness, fulness and soreness of her belly, heat, and thirst: and she has been in a fever ever since. In a few days after this fever began she continued for a whole night in a profuse universal sweat, which increased her lowness and faintness; but did not in the least abate the fever. She has all along been subject to cold and hot fits oftener than once in the day: and her sleeps have been very short, and unrefreshing.

At present, her head is easy; but she can get no sleep, on account of troublesome dreams. Her face is flushed. Her tongue is moist. Her breathing is pretty
 6 free.

free. Her breasts have never been uneasy: but, though they have been duly drawn, (for the child will not suck them) the milk has been gradually lessening ever since the commencement of the fever. She is low, and faint; but was never apprehensive of danger till to-day. Her belly is larger than natural, but is soft, and free from pain, or soreness; except what arises from gripes, which accompany her stools, and are also troublesome at other times. Her skin is hot, and rather moist. Her palms are very moist. Her pulse is sharp, and beats a hundred and thirty-five pulsations in the minute. She is very thirsty. She has no appetite: and she lothes broth and gruel, which have been her constant food. She is much troubled with wind: and the breaking of wind relieves her gripes. The lochia continued copious for more than eight days notwithstanding the fever: and there was afterward a serous discharge till within these two days. There is a small return of a redish uterine discharge to-day.

to-day. Her urine has been copious, and pale: but, for this day or two, it is said to have been high-coloured, and in small quantity.—She had an uncommon share of health, during pregnancy, from the end of the third month till within eight days of her delivery. During that time, she indulged a large appetite; and even eat meat twice a day. She was at the same time very costive, having often gone two or three days without a stool. For the last eight days of gestation, she was often troubled with what she calls a rising at her throat, as though her food did not digest well; and her belly was rather loose. She had a stool when in labour so very offensive, that the attending surgeon could scarce bear it. She had no stool for some days after delivery: but, ever since, she has had at the rate of two every other day; and they have always been very dark and offensive.—She has been taking rhubarb, magnesia, and Rochelle salts, from time to time; also mixtures with nitre and camphire.—She got ten grains of ipecacuanha to-day,
which

which made her vomit once, and bring up some phlegm. She has had three small stools to-day; one before, and two since, the vomit, beside several fruitless motions with gripes.—She has been much exposed to company, and her room has been kept too warm, during the course of this fever.

She is to continue the broth and gruel by turns for all her food.—She is to take a bolus of rhubarb and the cordial confection each ten grains, immediately. She is to take a fourth part of the following mixture with the bolus, and the same quantity every six hours after.

Take of mint-water, seven ounces;
syrup of orange-peel, an ounce;
pure nitre, a dram.

March 18. She had some short, refreshing sleeps in the night; and slept sound from five to seven this morning. She had two stools, of a very dark bilious colour, with wind and gripes, in the night. She has been often troubled with gripes attended with tenesmus, that is, fruitless

fruitless motions to stool since last report. The gripes have always the effect of rendering the belly sore to the touch for some time after. The urine made between two and three in the morning became turbid, and whitish, in half an hour; and continues so without sediment. That made at eight in the morning is of a natural colour, and has not yet undergone any change. She has rather more milk. Her pulse is soft, and beats eighty-five strokes in the minute, this forenoon. The uterine discharge is gone.—She was cold, especially over her arms, for a few minutes, about two o'clock; and has been hot ever since. She slept sound about an hour and a half in the afternoon. She now complains only of heat, thirst, and soreness of her belly, especially, upon changing her posture. Her spirits have been good all day, and continue so. Her countenance is flushed. Her tongue is rough. Her skin is hot. Her pulse is small, and beats a hundred and fifteen pulsations in the minute, tonight. The morning urines continue the

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same.

same. The urine made at two in the afternoon is transparent, and rather high coloured, with a very trifling cloud-like sediment. The urine made about an hour ago became turbid in a few minutes, and now depofes a sediment. She has had two more very dark stools with wind and gripes. Her belly is lefs.

The bolus is to be repeated: and ſhe is to take a fourth part of the following mixture every fix hours, beginning immediately.

Take of ſpring water, nine ounces;
ſyrup of orange-peel, one ounce;
pure nitre, a dram.

March 19. She was low, reſtleſs, very hot, and thirſty, from eleven to two in the morning. She fell aſleep at fix, ſlept ſound for an hour and a half, and awak-
ed in a profuſe general ſweat. Her face is fluffed this forenoon. Her tongue is rough, and whitish. She is neither low, nor faint. Her ſkin is moiſt, and more temperate. Her pulſe is low, and beats
eighty-

eighty-five strokes in the minute. She has little thirst; and still no appetite. The urine made early yesterday in the afternoon is turbid without sediment. That made in the evening is of an orange colour, and has a light pink sediment with diffused particles of the same colour. The urine made at five this morning deposes the same kind of sediment. She has had two stools, very loose, and of a better colour. She was griped in the night, not only with her stools, but at other times. She continues to pass a great deal of wind, and with relief.—She has never been chill to-day; and has sweated a good deal. She has had several short but sound sleeps. She has had a small loose griping stool, with a good deal of wind.—Her skin is moist and of a moderate warmth to-night. Her pulse is rather sharp, and beats ninety strokes in the minute. Her tongue is softer and not so white. Her thirst is gone. Her spirits are good. Her appetite begins to return.—The urine made in the morning is of an orange or bilious colour, and has a

smooth whitish or pearl-coloured sediment, with a gross pink surface. That made early in the afternoon became turbid in little more than half an hour, and exhibits now the same appearances as the preceding. Both urines abound with diffused pink-coloured particles. The urine made an hour ago is of a light bilious colour, and transparent, but begins to break.

The same method is continued.

March 20. She slept sound most of the night, and once for two hours together. She had two small liquid stools, of still a better colour, with gripes and wind.—Her skin is moist, and of nearly the natural heat this forenoon. Her pulse is small and beats eighty strokes in the minute. Her tongue is moist. Her spirits are good. The urine made yesterday in the evening retains some of its colour, and has the smooth sediment, whiter and in larger quantity, with the usual surface. The urines made at eleven last night and two in the morning are of a light bilious transparent colour, and seem as though they would break.—She had a good deal
of

of refreshing sleep in the day; and she sweated when asleep. She was of a temperate heat all day. Her tongue is moist and smooth to-night. Her skin is temperate. She has had no coldness for two days. Her pulse is small, and beats ninety strokes in the minute. Her spirits are good. The foreness of her belly is gone. She has had two windy griping loose stools, and darker than those in the morning. The last stool was rather large, and relieved her much by seeming to empty her bowels.—Last night's urine, mentioned in the morning as transparent, still retains some of its colour, and contains the usual sediment. That made early in the morning has not yet undergone any change. The urine made at eleven in the forenoon is paler than usual, and transparent with a very slight cloud at bottom. That made at two in the afternoon became turbid in an hour and a half; and has since deposited the usual sediment. These sediments are still more of a pearly than snowy whiteness.

The same course is continued.

March 21. She had a good night. She was sometimes griped in the night, and was relieved as usual by the breaking of wind. She had one loose dark stool with gripes and a good deal of wind.—Her spirits are good this forenoon. Her pulse is small, and beats eighty strokes in the minute. She still sweats in her sleep. Her urine is copious. That made in the night and early in the morning is pale and transparent. That made about half an hour ago is of a bilious colour and muddy.—She has passed a good day. She makes no complaint to-night. Her pulse is small and beats eighty strokes in the minute. She has had another stool, dark, bilious, and very slimy. The morning's bilious urine is still transparent with a small sediment. The urine made through the day is of a straw colour without contents.

The same method is continued.

March 22. She passed a quiet night, but did not sleep so much as usual. She had two very slimy stools of the usual colour; and voided a great deal of wind with them.

them.. She was much troubled with gripes for a considerable time before the stools.—Her skin continues temperate, and her spirits good. Her pulse is small, and beats eighty strokes in the minute this forenoon. Her urine is more copious, and is of a pale straw colour without any marks of separation.—She passed a good day, and slept some. She sat up for an hour this evening. Her pulse is small and beats seventy-two strokes in the minute. Her urine is pale and transparent, with little or no sediment. She has had another dark griping fetid stool, consisting almost entirely of very ropy slime.

The same method is continued: and two grains of socotorine aloes are to be added to the bolus.

March 23. She passed the best night that she has yet had. She had one stool of a natural colour.—Her pulse beats seventy-six strokes in the minute this morning. Her urine is of a pale straw colour without separation.—She had a very good day, and lay upon the bed in her clothes; and sat up sometimes, but very little at a

time. She sweats very little now in her sleep. The gripes are inconsiderable. She has had another stool, slimy and of not so good a colour. The urine is transparent and pale. The pulse is natural.— She eat a bit of mutton at dinner to-day for the first time; and it has agreed very well with her.

The bolus and mixture are omitted.— She is to take two of the following aloetick pills every night, beginning to-night.

Take of socotorine aloes, and hard soap, each a dram and a half. Beat them well together, adding a little honey if necessary; and divide the mass into forty equal pills.

March 24. She has no complaint. The urine is almost colourless. She has had two stools of a natural appearance.

C H A P. VI.

*Of the WEED, the MILK FEVER, and
the MILIARY FEVER.*

THE patients, mentioned in the preceding chapter, are now alive and well; except G. H. who died of a consumption in six or eight months after her delivery. All those cases, and indeed all that I have ever seen, most clearly demonstrate the solidity of the doctrine which I have advanced concerning the nature, the seat, and the cure, of the puerperal remittent fever. The two paroxysms at the close of the seventh case are so many examples, of, what the Scots call, a Weed; a disease which, by itself, I have not before met with in England.

It is worth while to observe, that the Weed did not take place till such time as the intestinal canal was thoroughly cleansed. Hence it is more than probable that the shape of puerperal fevers is chiefly determined by the state of the first passages. If the stomach and guts be loaded
4 with

with accumulated filth, the fever will be remittent. According to the nature of that accumulation, and of the air in which the patient breathes, symptoms will vary ; while, in every case, the fever remains essentially the same. On the other hand, if the air be pure, and the stomach and guts tolerably clean, the fever will end in one smart paroxysm usually called a Weed. The methods of prevention and cure recommended for the puerperal remittent fever, extend also to this puerperal ephemera or weed.

Having explained the nature and cure of the ephemeral and remittent fevers, I am naturally led to make a few remarks on some other febrile disorders incident to childbed,

The milk fever is a very common distemper. I have already touched upon it in the method of cure, as being a variety of the remittent fever. If, immediately after delivery, the milk flow into the breasts faster than it is drawn off, they become hot, distended, heavy, hard, painful, and at last inflamed. If this disorder

order occurs in a habit otherwise sound, it will continue merely topical: but the patient will, on its account, be more liable to fever from accidental causes. And this fever, when it happens, will prove either ephemeral or remittent according to circumstances. It is proper also to remark, that either of these fevers will be an exciting cause of this disorder when there is a predisposition in the breasts.

From what hath been said it follows, that the affection of the breasts and the fever are distinct diseases; and that the latter ought, perhaps, in every instance of their combination, to be considered as the principal disorder. This is further confirmed by practice: for though it be certainly necessary to keep the milk within bounds by suction or drawing, and also to use other external means, yet no methods of prevention or cure will succeed, that are not chiefly intended for the fever.

When the puerperal remittent fever is attended with a certain cutaneous eruption, it constitutes what is called the Miliary

liary Fever. These two fevers are therefore essentially the same: and as a convincing proof of this, I know from experience that they equally yield to the general method of cure described in the third chapter.

Finally, what hath been observed of the miliary and milk fevers, holds true of all fevers to which women in childbed are liable; they are only varieties of the ephemeral or remittent fever, but particularly of the latter. This was even the case with the inflammation of the womb referred to in the third chapter: for after all symptoms of inflammation had ceased, the fever notwithstanding continued till the first passages were properly cleansed.

F I N I S.

ERRATA.

- P. 1. l. 12, 13. *for* when exposed to febrile causes,
read under certain circumstances,
P. 5. l. 15. *for* offenslve *read* offensive
P. 12. l. 23. *for* fluid *read* fluid
P. 13. l. 16. *for* these *read* as
P. 20. l. 12. *for* we are *read* they be
P. 20. l. 17. *for* practice *read* practise.
P. 22. l. 12. *After* patient, *add* and exigence of the
case,
P. 51. l. 11. *for* loathes *read* loaths
P. 85. l. 27. *for* draughts *read* draughts.

